

REMARKS

Status of the claims

Claims 1-4 and 6-14 were previously pending in the application. Claims 1-4 and 6-14 were rejected in the Office Action dated December 1, 2006. Claim 5 was cancelled without prejudice. The Applicant thanks the Examiner for accepting the drawings submitted on October 4, 2006.

Applicant respectfully submits that the below remarks have overcome the basis for all rejection(s) and or objection(s) and place this application and all pending claims in condition for allowance. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests allowance, and reconsideration of the rejection(s) and or objection(s).

Rejections and Response to the Rejections

Claims 1-4 and 6-14 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Colting, US 5,125,177 in view of Vicino, US Re 33,709. Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1-4 and 6-14 are patentably distinct from the cited references considered separately or in combination.

Independent claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

“A cold-air inflatable display comprising:
a permeable fabric forming an inflatable figure with a hollow body;
an interchangeable fan assembly comprising at least one fan, a housing for said fan **secured to a standard-sized fabric** having a male securing device disposed along a border of said standard-sized fabric for receipt by a female securing device disposed along a border of a receiving opening joining said fan assembly to said permeable fabric through said receiving opening positioned on said hollow body above a surface-touching bottom to allow optimum airflow through said fan into said hollow body;
a lighting arrangement extending through an interior portion of said hollow body, ...; and
a second power cord extending from said fan for connection to a power source; wherein said interchangeable fan assembly is a **lightweight assembly secured to said permeable fabric above said surface-touching bottom of each hollow**

body without a base support and without distorting said figure when said cold-air inflatable display is inflated.”

(Emphasis supplied). Applicant submits that the cited references, combined or alone, fail to teach, disclose or suggest the elements recited in amended Claim 1, or any of the similar independent Claims 7 and 13, or the claims which depend therefrom. The emphasized claim elements are discussed in detail below as clear points of patentable distinction over the cited references.

Neither the cited Colting reference, nor the cited Vicino reference, teach, disclose or suggest separately or in combination an interchangeable fan assembly having at least the following: (1) “a housing for said fan secured to a standard-sized fabric having a male securing device disposed along a border of said standard-sized fabric for receipt by a female securing device disposed along a border of a receiving opening joining said fan assembly to said permeable fabric through said receiving opening positioned on said hollow body above a surface-touching bottom” and (2) “a lightweight assembly secured to said permeable fabric above said surface-touching bottom of each hollow body without a base support and without distorting said figure when said cold-air inflatable display is inflated.”

Colting discloses a multi-piece inflatable device with a base portion 12 containing an inflating power blower 25, and an inflatable flexible top portion 14 inflatably attached to the compact base portion. In the Final Office Action, the Examiner states that “Colting teaches a cold air inflatable display including a hollow body (Figure 1) and interchangeable fan assembly having housing and secured in an opening (of matching dimensions) in the body by....” (Office Action, page 2). However, Colting fails to teach, disclose or suggest an interchangeable fan assembly secured to a standard-sized fabric having a male securing device secured to a female securing device joining the interchangeable fan assembly to the inflatable permeable fabric.

Colting also does not teach, disclose or suggest an interchangeable fan assembly positioned on the inflatable display above a surfaced touching portion of the inflatable display without the need for a base support.

In Colting, the electrically powered blower is contained within the base portion of the inflatable display. There is no teaching, disclosure or suggestion that the electrically powered blower is secured to the inflatable device via a standard-sized fabric having a male securing device secured to a female securing device joining the electrically powered blower to the inflatable device. Colting simply discloses that the inlet of the blower is permanently secured to the end of the base portion or that a zipper or like fastening means may be provided between the blower inlet and the end of the base portion and that such a releasable securement is provided by a zipper surrounding the blower opening. (Colting col. 2, lns. 22-28). Colting does not disclose a housing for an interchangeable fan assembly secured to a standard-sized fabric having a male securing device.

In addition, Colting simply discloses that the base portion of the inflatable device contains an electrically powered blower. In the Final Office Action, the Examiner states that “as shown by Colting, Fig. 2, the fan is secured to the inflatable display above the surface touching bottom and without a base support.” (Office Action, page 3). Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner’s characterization of Colting. In Colting, the electrically powered blower is shown to be resting within the bottom of the base portion of the inflatable device. There is no teaching, disclosure or suggestion of an interchangeable fan assembly secured to an inflatable display above a surfaced touching portion of the display.

Moreover, in view of a search undertaken by Applicant, Applicant respectfully submits that the inflatable display of Colting would not be able to support the Colting blower above a

surfaced touching portion of the inflatable display if the Colting blower were secured directly to the inflatable display without a base support. Applicant's search uncovered that the motor of the blower disclosed by Colting, the Dayton Model 8C338 blower, alone weighs 4.47 lbs. (a copy of the Engineering Drawing of the Dayton Model 8C338 blower is attached herewith). There are additional parts to the Dayton 8C338 blower, such that the entire weight of the Colting blower is likely to be heavier than 4.47 lbs. Applicant submits that it is not possible for the inflatable materials of Colting to support a fan assembly weighing 4.47 lbs. or greater without additional base support. Thus, Colting does not teach, disclose or suggest "a lightweight [fan] assembly secured to said permeable fabric above said surface-touching bottom of said hollow body without a base support and without distorting said figure when said cold-air inflatable display is inflated."

Vicino fails to remedy this deficiency. There is absolutely no teaching, disclosure or suggestion in Vicino of such a lightweight interchangeable fan assembly. Vicino simply discloses a "squirrel-cage blower 21 installed on the floor of the chamber 6" (col. 2, lns. 49-50). As both Colting and Vicino fail to teach, disclose or suggest, alone or in combination, an interchangeable fan assembly having at least "a housing for said fan secured to a standard-sized fabric having a male securing device disposed along a border of said standard-sized fabric for receipt by a female securing device disposed along a border of a receiving opening joining said fan assembly to said permeable fabric through said receiving opening positioned on said hollow body above a surface-touching bottom" and "a lightweight assembly secured to said permeable fabric above said surface-touching bottom of each hollow body without a base support and without distorting said figure when said cold-air inflatable display is inflated," the cited references fail to teach, disclose or suggest all the recited elements of the asserted claims.

Similar analyses apply to dependent claims of independent Claim 1, as well as independent Claims 7 and 13, and claims depending therefrom.

Finally, Applicant submits that there is no teaching, suggestion or motivation to combine the cited references to arrive at the current invention. As stated in MPEP §2134.01(I), even if “[t]he combination of the references taught every element of the claimed invention, however, without a motivation to combine, a rejection based on a *prima facie* case of obvious was held improper.” *MPEP §2134.01(I)* citing *In re Rouffet*, 149 F.3d 1350, 1357, (Fed. Cir. 1998). Applicant submits that there is no motivation, teaching or suggestion to combine the woven fabric of Vicino with Colting to create a display wherein a lightweight blower is secured to the fabric which is secured to a flexible inflatable portion positioned above a surface-touching bottom to inflate the inflatable device without a base support and without distorting the shape of the inflatable device. Indeed, Colting teaches away from such a display by using a heavy blower which would distort the inflatable display if it were secured directly thereto above a surface touching portion of the display. (If proposed modification would render the prior art invention being modified unsatisfactory for its intended purpose, then there is no suggestion or motivation to make the proposed modification. *See MPEP § 2143.01(V)*, citing *In re Gordon*, 733 F.2d 900, 221 USPQ 1125(Fed. Cir. 1984)). Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

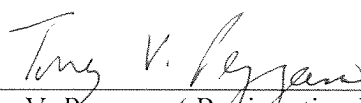
Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks. Further, Applicants respectfully submits that the claims as presented herein are allowable over the art of record and that the application is in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below, should that in anyway facilitate prosecution.

Applicant believes no fee nor extension of time is required for this filing. However, should an extension of time be necessary to render this filing timely, such extension is hereby petitioned and the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this paper, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 4600-4001.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: February 28, 2007

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